and silver by legalising the import of gold and silver, I cannot say that overnight, changes can take place. But, over a period of time, the main thrust of the New Economic Policy is to reduce the scope for smuggling, to reduce the scope for 'havala' operations and to reduce the scope for generation of black money in the country as a whole.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Minister has said that foreign banks and Indian banks are treated at par as regards the steps to be taken. But, in practice, it appears to me that we are soft towards foreign banks. Regarding the private sector lending also, the foreign banks are required to give 15 per cent by 1992-93. But they have not reached it. Some foreign banks are giving interest which is much less than that required by law. If the balance was Rs. 5000 and less, then they were not given any interest, but they were charged service charges. I would like to know whether the Minister will look into it to see that foreign banks and Indian banks are treated in the same manner and whether wherever any defects are there on the part of foreign banks, stern action will be taken so that they may also behave in the same manner as he wants Indian banks to behave.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I will look into it.

एशियासेट के ट्रांसपोंडर की खरीद

*283. **श्री सोम पाल :** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 3 फरवरी, 1993 के राष्ट्रीय सहारा, दिल्ली में "एशियासेट के ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदने के प्रयास" शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन की अनुमति न होने के बावजूद सरकार यह ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदने के लिये क्यों उत्सुक है ; और

(घ) इस समय सरकार के पास कितने ट्रांसपोंडर बेकार पड़े हैं और कब से ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) जी, हां

(ख) से (घ) इनसैट प्रणाली के साथ उपलब्ध ट्रांसपोंडर का उपयोग किया जा रहा है अथवा विभिन्न राज्यों में क्षेत्रीय सेवा के लिये सौंप दिये गये हैं । हमारा मूल्यांकन रहा है कि एक और ट्रांसपोंडर की उपलब्धता से अब हमारी आवश्यकताओं को बेहतर रूप से पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी ।

श्री सोम पाल : सभापति महोदय, मेरे मूल प्रश्न के पिछले दो भाग "ग" और "घ" का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया है । मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि क्या भारतीय अन्तरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन "इसरो" ने एशियासेट के अतिरिक्त ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदने के लिये अनुमति प्रदान कर दी है अथवा नहीं? इसका उत्तर नहीं आया । और क्या उस अनुमति के अभाव में मंत्रालय या दूरदर्शन इस प्रकार के अतिरिक्त ट्रांसपोंडर खरीद सकते हैं ? इस संबंध में क्या स्थिति है ? अगर वह अनुमति नहीं मिली है तो फिर मंत्रालय इस दिशा में क्यों अग्रसर हो रहा है ? यह मेरा "ग" भाग है जिसे मेरे प्रश्न का भाग "क" माना जाये और "ख" भाग में मेरे मूल प्रश्न "घ" में जो दिया है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, part (b). You ask your second question.

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, I am just repeating the original question I have

raised. Because it was in Hindi. I think there is some problem in appreciating the import of my question. I am just repeating the original question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is whether the ISRO has approved it.

SHRI SOM PAL: The ISRO has not given permission. I wanted to know whether permission was given or without permission, they were going ahead with the purchase. This is (a) part of my question. This is not a supplementary. This is the original question. Part (b) of it is I wanted to know whether there are already some transponders available with the Doordarshan which are not being fully utilised by it. Then, what is the rationale of purchasing additional transponders? The available transponders are being used only for three hours and there are five such transponders which are being used only for regional telecast. When the availability of the existing transponders is not being fully utilised, what is the rationale of purchasing a new transponder? These are the two questions which belong to the original question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I accept them as one supplementary.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, in this very House, two question have been answered—one on the 30th of April and another on the 16th of July, 1992 and yet another in the Lok Sabha on 6th April, 1992—where it has been made amply clear that the Department of Space and the Ministry of I & B have been associated right from the begining, in the negotiations in trying to acquire a transponder frm ASIASAT and that arrangement still continues. So there has been no violation and at no stage, have the I.S.R.O. or the Department of Space been neglected or not being consulted or not associated? Regarding part (b), whether any transponders are available there, whether they are fully being used, as I have said, all the ten transponders available to Doordarshan and the Indan Satellite are committed. I would not like to say anything more than this in this House for various reasons; they are being utilised and they are committed. We don't have any spare capacity at the moment.

श्री सोम पाल : सभापति महोदय, मेरा दूसरा पूरक प्रश्न यह है कि मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि मूल्यांकन पहले से यह रहा है कि एक और ट्रांसपोंडर की उपलब्धता से उनकी आवश्यकतायें बेहतर रूप से पूरी करने में मदद मिलेगी । यदि इस प्रकार का मूल्यांकन उनका पूर्व से ही रहा है तो मेरी सूचना यह है कि एशियासेट का वही ट्रांसपोंडर पहले डेढ़ करोड़ डालर में मिल रहा था और उस समय दूरदर्शन ने अपनी तरफ से 1.2 करोड़ डालर देने की बात कही थी और यही ट्रांसपोंडर अब साढ़े तीन करोड़ डालर में खरीदने के लिये तैयार है और ट्रांसपोंडर की अब उपलब्धता भी नहीं है और संभवतः एशियासेट और ज्यादा कीमत इसकी चाहता है और उसको भी बढ़ाकर दूरदर्शन देने के लिये तैयार है, तो यह दो करोड़ डालर का घाटा क्यों किया जा रहा है और जब कि उसका मूल्यांकन यह था कि उन्हें अतिरिक्त ट्रांसपोंडर की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that if you delay negotiations, the price will increase, as it is increasing worldwide and this is nothing new. The fact was that when negotiations were taking place last year, they could not be finalised because both the parties could not agree and the ASIASAT, at that time, was not able to give it at the price at which it was being negotiated. Now, after one year, naturally, the price will go up. It is still under negotiation.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, this question is a very important question though slightly technical jargons

are involved in it. I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that the INSAT-2A satellite which we have sent into the orbit last year, is a much more powerful satellite than the ASIASAT and one transponder of our own satellite would be enough for Doordarshan to counter all the Star TV programmes and if that is so, why should the Minister of Information and Broadcasting not discuss it with the Department of Space? I agree with him. I don't want the details. The Department of Space may be using the transponders for sensitive purposes. Please don't give us that information in the House. But just tell us why you cannot use all your influence with the Department of Space to hire one transponder from them because today, with the advent of Star TV, it is common knowledge that Doordarshan's existing channels just cannot cope with them. We have Pakistan TV. We have four, five channels of Star TV, including a Hindi channel—Zee TV. If you get one transponder from your own satellite, that would be enough to meet the requirement. Is it or is it not a fact that your satellite is much more powerful than the ASIASAT? The foot-prints of your satellite are bigger than the foot-prints of the ASIASAT and if that is a fact, what steps your Ministry is taking to get one transponder exclusively for Doordarshan?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not the Minister of Science and Technology or Space. But whatever information is available with me, I will give that. The foot-prints of Indian Satellite are meant for use only within the borders of our country and the foot-prints of the ASIASAT go beyond and it also encompasses very many countries in Asia. In fact, a large number of countries are covered. Therefore, we were trying to get better facilities and at the moment, the foot-prints of Indian Satellite are meant to be confined to the Indian boundary. Therefore, we were trying for this. As far as the question of influence being by used by my Ministry is concerned, I will say that it is not necessary. The Department of Space is very much associated and involved in all these negotiations so far, right from the beginning. Even now, they are associated. And we keep on having a dialogue, information as shared with them and they are also part of this entire process.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, with your permission I just give a price of information to the Minister. He is not correct. The foot-prints of the Indian Satellite fall on 36 countries and under an international agreement you are not supposed to go to other countries. The ASIASAT is doing it illegally. So if you are going to hire a transponder it will be illegal, in any case. If you have got your own Satellite, please discuss it with the Minister of Science and Technology...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given the information, but you don't accept the basic information. It is very difficult. This is authentic information.

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, what Mr. Kamal Morarka spoke, I also wish to support that. The question of foot-prints is a very important question. It is a very relevant question. What the Minister says is he does not know this scientific jargon or scientific technology. It is not becoming of the Minister when he is Minister of Information and Broadcasting...

MR. CHAIRMAN: But still he has got his briefing before he said, obviously from ISRO... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, please protect us... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister would look into it scientifically or ask the Scientific Ministry to help you on that later... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SOM PAL: The story is something else. There is an attempt made by the Government... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: This is an important point...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a question of fact, scientific fact.

SHRI SOM PAL: It is not a question of fact... *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Chairman, would you please listen to me? Sir, there is an attempt being made by the Government to impart legality to the telecast of STAR T.V. *via* ASIASAT ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you can't make imputations like that... *(Interruptions)*... You cannot make imputations like that. That is not a question. If you want to ask a question of fact, you do that.

SHRI SOM PAL: But it is a fact. ... *(Interruptions)*... You don't justify....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has replied that it is not beyond the boundaries of India. ... *(Interruptions)*... I will ask the Minister to look into it and give you the reply later.

SHRI SOM PAL: How can the STAR T.V. be telecast over India? Either it should be stopped o... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please sit down now?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I refute all these charges with all the emphasis at my command and without fear of any contradiction. And secondly, I never used the words which the hon. Member has attributed to me. Sir, if you go through the record, the words "scientific jargon" were used by Mr. Kamal Morarka. I neve said that, I only said, "I am not the Minister of Science and Technology or Space and whatever information is available with me, I can give you that, but I cannot give you details of the Ministry of Science and Technology." But as you have directed, Sir, we are in consultation with them and we will continue our consultations with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mrs. Veena Verma.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि अभी कुछ समय पहले हमारे सूचना सचिव जी ने कहा था कि मैट्रो चैनल को भविष्य में हम दूसरे राष्ट्रीय चैनल में बदल सकते हैं यदि हमें दूसरे उपग्रह पर एक नया ट्रांसपोंडर मिल जाए। क्या सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है कि जो मैट्रो चैनल और रीजनल चैनल हैं उन पर पूरे देश के लिये कार्यक्रम प्रसारित करने के लिये, राष्ट्रीय चैनल बनाने के लिये एक नया ट्रांसपोंडर लिया जाय ? पाकिस्तान का हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ प्रचार को देखते हुये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि एशिया सेट पर हम ट्रांसपोंडर प्राप्त करें। पाकिस्तान का जो करार है वह 31 मार्च को खत्म हो रहा है। यह बहुत जरूरी है कि नया ट्रांसपोंडर, एशिया सेट भारत सरकार ले और कई देशों में भारत के कार्यक्रम दिखाये जायें और इस प्रचार को कम किया जाए। तो क्या सरकार किसी भी कीमत पर एशिया सेट पर नया ट्रांसपोंडर लेने के लिये विचार कर रही है और दूसरा क्या मैट्रो चैनल को राष्ट्रीय चैनल बनाने पर भी विचार करेगी?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the hon. Member has given some very valuable suggestion and, in fact, this is exactly what the negotiations are for, we are trying to acquire an improved transponder so that we would be able to show our programme and the footprints are not only within the boundaries but also outside the

boundaries where other Indians are living and we would also like to show our cultural and other programmes.

Secondly, as regards the Metro Channel about which she was mentioning, in fact, on the first of April, 1993 all the Metro Kendras will be uplinking through the Indian Satellite and whosoever has dish-antenna will be able to get it all over India.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि हमारा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय संसाधनों का सही ढंग से इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाता है। इसका उदाहरण हमें पिछले ही दिनों मिला जब दूरदर्शन के अधिकारियों की गलतफहमी के कारण दूरदर्शन को दो करोड़ रुपये का घाटा लगा। बहरहाल, मैं इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह जानना चाहती हूं कि मंत्री महोदय ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदने के लिए जो पशोपेश कर रहे हैं उसके पीछे मूल आधार यह है कि पाकिस्तानी टी. वी. के ज़रिये जो भारत विरोधी कुत्सित प्रचार किया जा रहा है, उसका मुकाबला किया जाए। मंत्री महोदय भी इस बात से अवगत हैं कि पाकिस्तान के साथ "एशियासेट" का जो समझौता हुआ था उसकी मियाद इसी माह खत्म हो रही है। सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय की ओर से इस दिशा में प्रयास किया गया है चूंकि पाकिस्तान अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संहिता और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नियमों का उल्लंघन कर रहा है इसलिए पाकिस्तान के इस कुत्सित प्रयास को रोका जाए। तो इस दिशा में हमारे सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय ने क्या कार्यवाही की है? "एशियासेट" के अनुसार जो कार्यवाही की गई क्या उसके कुछ सकारात्मक परिणाम निकले हैं? अगर सकारात्मक परिणाम निकले हैं तो फिर "एशियासेट" से यह ट्रांसपोंडर खरीदने की क्या आवश्यकता है, इस पर मंत्री महोदय प्रकाश डालें।

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not because of any obsession with Pakistan or any such thing that we are trying to acquire a transponder. This was the combined decision. This was the wisdom of the Government after due deliberation. ASIASAT was launched in 1990. In March 1991 the Government first set the ball rolling. In December 1991 it was decided that we should try to acquire one so that we could use this for more important programmes and also to have larger footprints. Efforts are still on. In fact, the negotiations had broken down. The ASIASAT at that time did not have the capacity and they on their own also declined at a particular time and then they renewed their interest. We are trying to negotiate with them so that we can acquire better technological as well as modern equipment which will have a larger footprint. I mentioned in the first part of my answer to the hon. Member Mr. Som Pal, about the efforts that we are making and I don't want to repeat them. We have answered this question three times in both the House earlier.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the STAR telecast is very much illegal and since the Wireless Act provides that nobody can receive any wave nor can anybody transmit them and what action the Government is taking for preventing this particular Star communication?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I am informed that technologically it is not possible to cut out the STAR beaming on to our country. But as far as the law is concerned, we will have to examine it from all its ramifications, freedom of the media and all that, and unless we go into the various ramifications we cannot do that. There are some countries in Asia which have prohibited such satellite receptions. We will have to have a wider debate on all its ramifications and whether we would like to have a closed society. (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramji Lal.

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Sir, I want your protection. I would like to know whether the Governmen considers it illegal or not.

श्री रामजी लाल: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने उत्तर के दूसरे भाग में यह कहा है कि "एशियासेट" के ट्रांसपोंडर की उपलब्धता से हमारी आवश्यकताओं को बेहतर रूप से पूरा करने में मदद मिलेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस ट्रांसपोंडर के आने से भारत के दूरदर्शन का स्तर दूसरे डवलप्ड कंट्रीज के बराबर हो जाएगा और यह योजना कब तक स्वीकृत की जाएगी?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: It is very difficult to say about the time limit because negotiations are on. If negotiations can be finalised as quickly as possible, we will be able to get it soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

क्रेडिट कार्ड धारकों से ब्याज लिया जाना

*284. **श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :**
डा० बापू कालदाते :

क्या **वित्त** मंत्री 23 फरवरी, 1993 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1190 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा क्रेडिट कार्ड धारकों से 30 प्रतिशत ब्याज लिया जाता है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि क्रेडिट कार्ड खो जाने की स्थिति में कई बैंक अगले 24 घंटे तक के व्यवहारों को शामिल करते हैं जबकि कुछ बैंक 30 दिनों तक की जिम्मेदारी ग्राहकों पर डालते हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार इस संबंध में निर्धारित शर्तों में समानता लाने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री डा. अनवर अहमद : (क) से (घ) राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक सामान्यतः अदत्त देयताओं के लिए कार्ड धारकों से 2% मासिक की दर से सेवा प्रभार लेते हैं। तथापि कुछ बैंक 2.5 प्रतिशत मासिक प्रभार लेते हैं।

आन्ध्र बैंक, बैंक आफ इंडिया, बैंक आफ बड़ौदा और सेन्ट्रल बैंक आफ इंडिया के क्रेडिट कार्ड योजना के संबंध में उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, कार्ड के खो जाने की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त होने से 30 दिनों तक खोया हुआ कार्ड प्राप्त करने वाले द्वारा किए गए उसके सभी उपयोगों के लिए मूलकार्ड धारक उत्तरदायी होगा। केनरा बैंक केनकार्ड योजना के मामले में जब तक बैंक को ऐसी सूचना लिखित रूप में नहीं मिल जाती है, खोये हुए या चोरी गए कार्ड से की गई किसी भी खरीद के लिए कार्डधारक जिम्मेदार होगा।

क्रेडिट कार्ड योजनाओं में एकरूपता लाने के लिए मार्गनिर्देश जारी करने के बारे में कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

Navigational facilities at Airports

*285. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many